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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
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INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0069  
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0002  
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 0004  
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA PRIORITY 0010  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE VIENNA AU PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0098  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 000182

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNMIK](#) [EU](#) [ES](#)  
SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR LEANS TOWARDS KOSOVO RECOGNITION, BUT  
LATER

REF: A. STATE 13716

[1](#)B. SAN SALVADOR 51  
[1](#)C. STATE 1087

Classified By: The Ambassador, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: El Salvador will almost certainly recognize Kosovo's independence, but because of sensitivities concerning relations with Moscow, the GOES will not be among the first wave of countries to do so. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) PolCouns delivered Ref (A) demarche to MFA officials February 12. North America Director Wendy Acevedo, standing in for the Deputy Director General for Political Affairs who was called away, said El Salvador had hoped a negotiated agreement could be reached. The GOES recognizes that is unlikely, so it intends to maintain a "prudent" policy of watching and waiting as Kosovo's independence declaration plays out, both between Belgrade and Pristina and in the international community.

[1](#)3. (C) Complicating El Salvador's position, Acevedo said, was the GOES' continuing effort to improve relations with Russia. VM Calix visited Moscow last year, and the GOES hopes to build on that visit and strengthen relations with Moscow in coming months. San Salvador does not want to jeopardize this effort with quick recognition of Kosovo independence.

[1](#)4. (C) That said, Acevedo said El Salvador would almost certainly recognize Kosovo, just not immediately. She said timing would depend on how things played out in the days and weeks after Kosovo's declaration of independence and this would inform the MFA's "strategic analysis" paper (Ref (B)).

[1](#)5. (C) Comment: Both Acevedo and Amaya acknowledge that Kosovo has escaped Belgrade's orbit and that San Salvador will eventually recognize Pristina. While the GOES will not recognize Kosovo right away, reaching a critical mass of recognitions -- especially in Europe -- will ease that step for the GOES. We will continue to urge that it do so as soon as possible.  
GLAZER